

~~Top Secret~~



*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

## Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

27 OCT 67

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Preliminary Assessment of Recent Bomb Damage:

Photography of Phuc Yen taken yesterday shows 47 new craters on the runway, heavy damage to taxiways and parking aprons, and five destroyed MIG-15/17s.

Earlier photographs showed at least one MIG-21 destroyed and several others damaged. Four more MIGs have been shot down in air engagements since Tuesday.

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In poststrike photography of the Paul Doumer Bridge, two sections near the center appear to be down and a third section near the northern approach also appears damaged. Altogether, the new damage seems about equivalent to that of last August, which required about six weeks to repair for limited traffic.

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Hanoi Avoids Comment on Phuc Yen Raids: North Vietnamese propaganda has made no mention as yet of the two successive days of air strikes against Phuc Yen airfield. Rather, Hanoi has predictably charged that the raids were targeted against populated areas in the center of Hanoi. An international broadcast in English on 25 October claimed that these latest raids have been particularly savage in employing steel pellet bombs on a number of civilian sections of the city. Hanoi's silence is not unusual, however; the North Vietnamese have never mentioned earlier strikes against other airfields.

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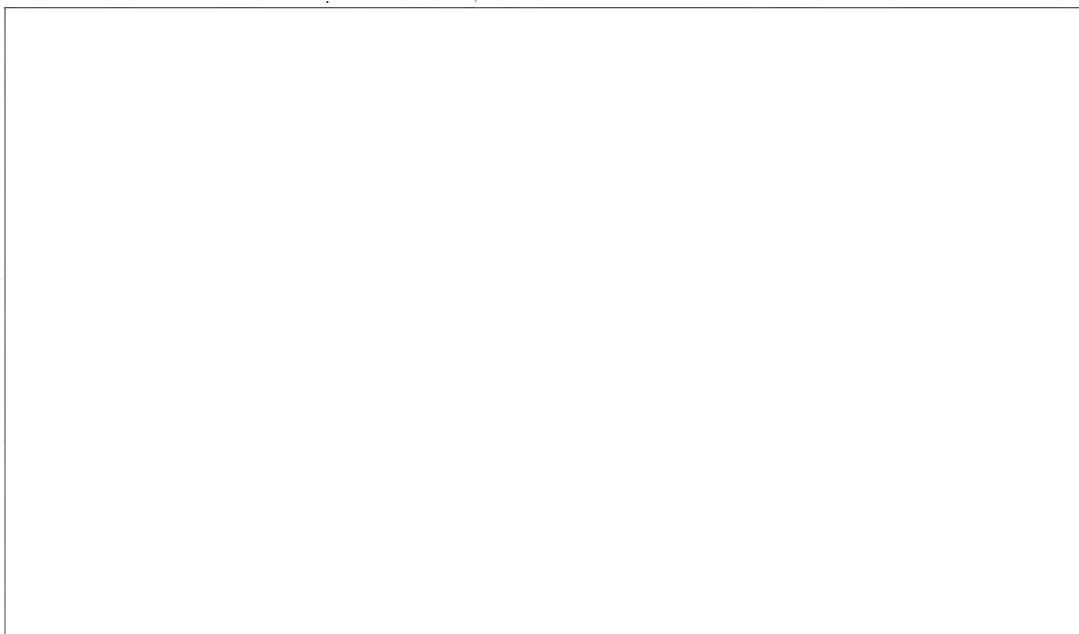
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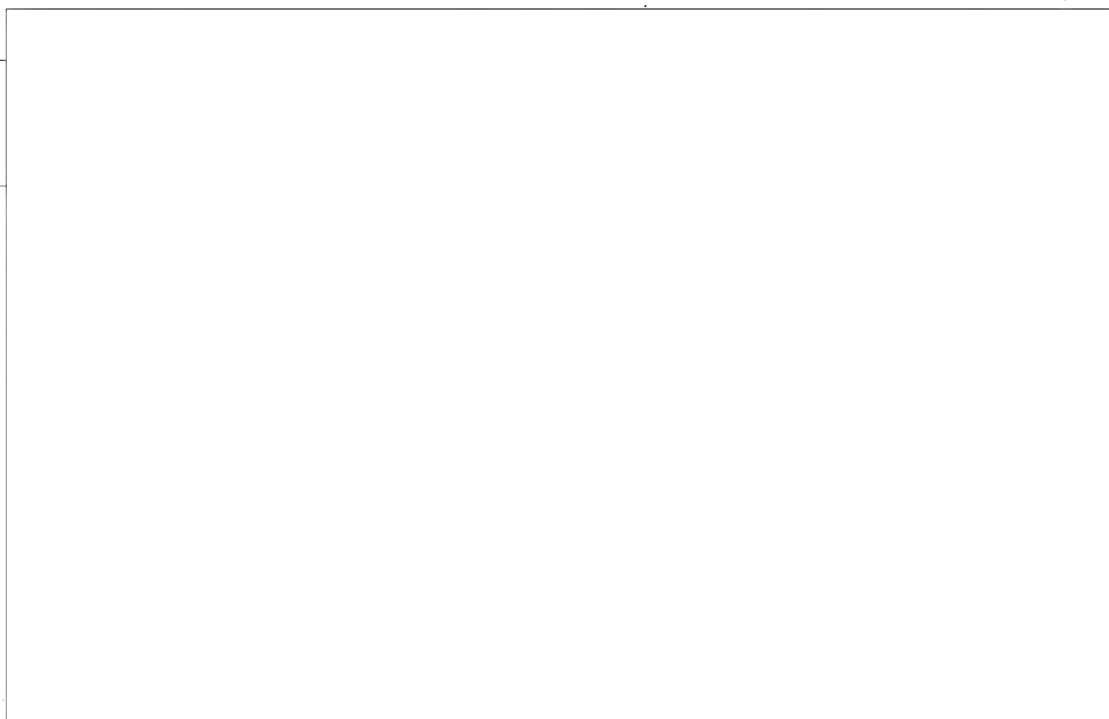
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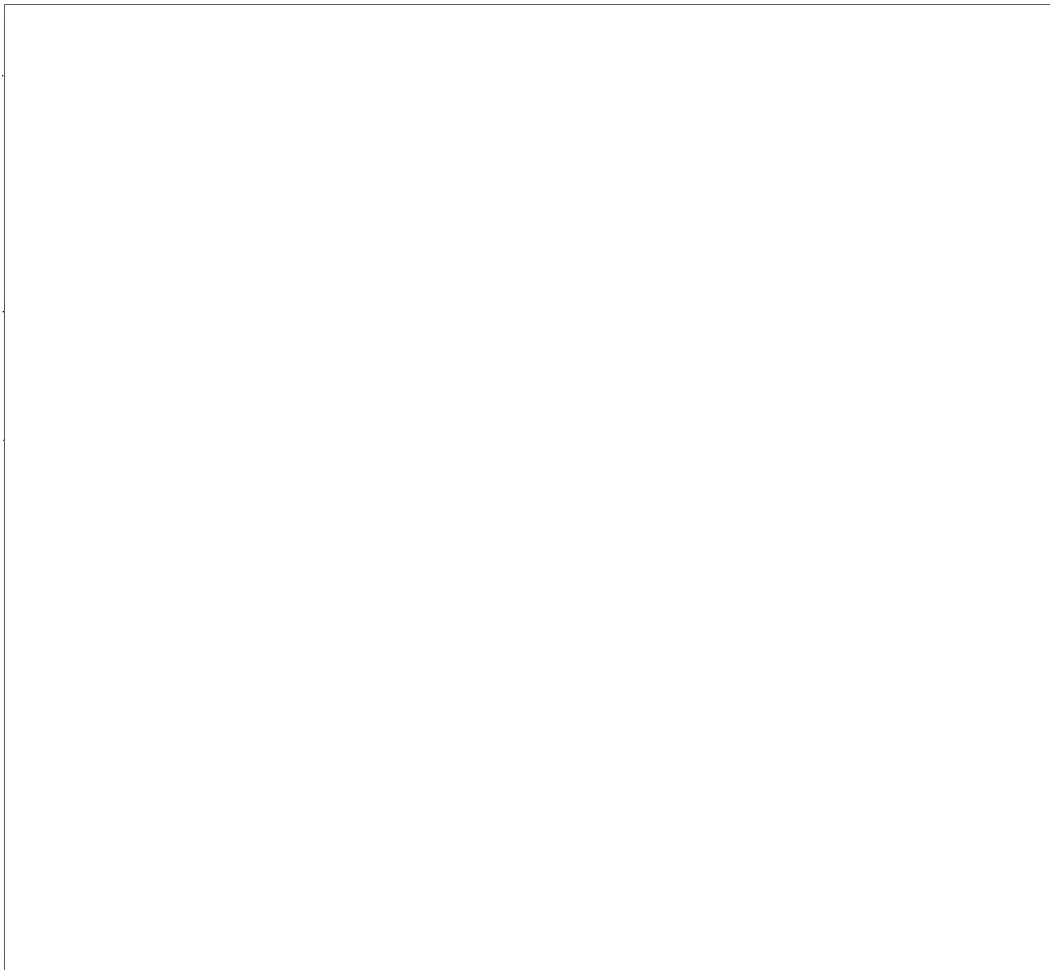
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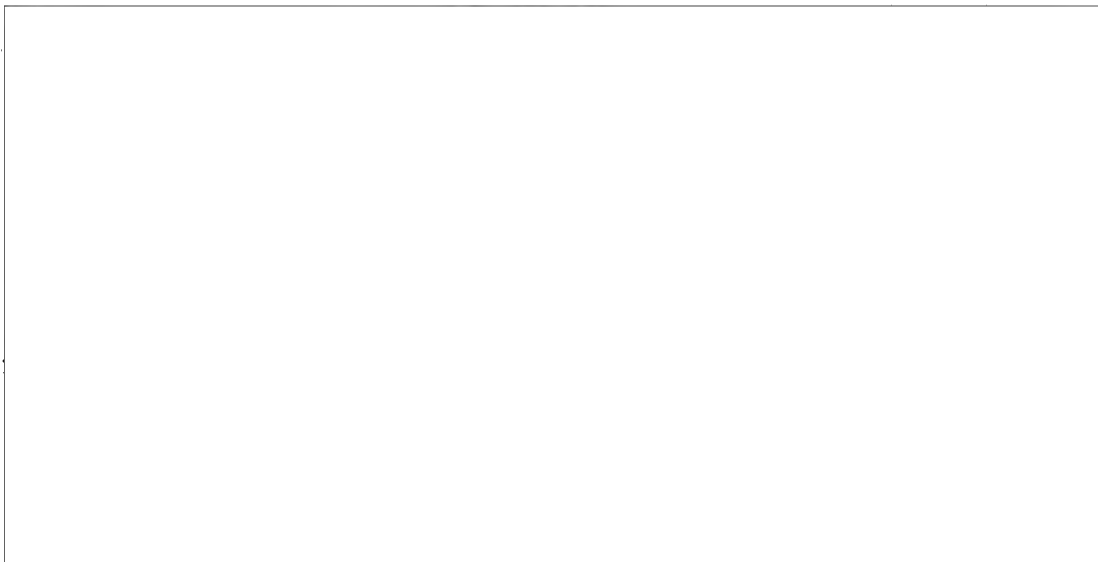
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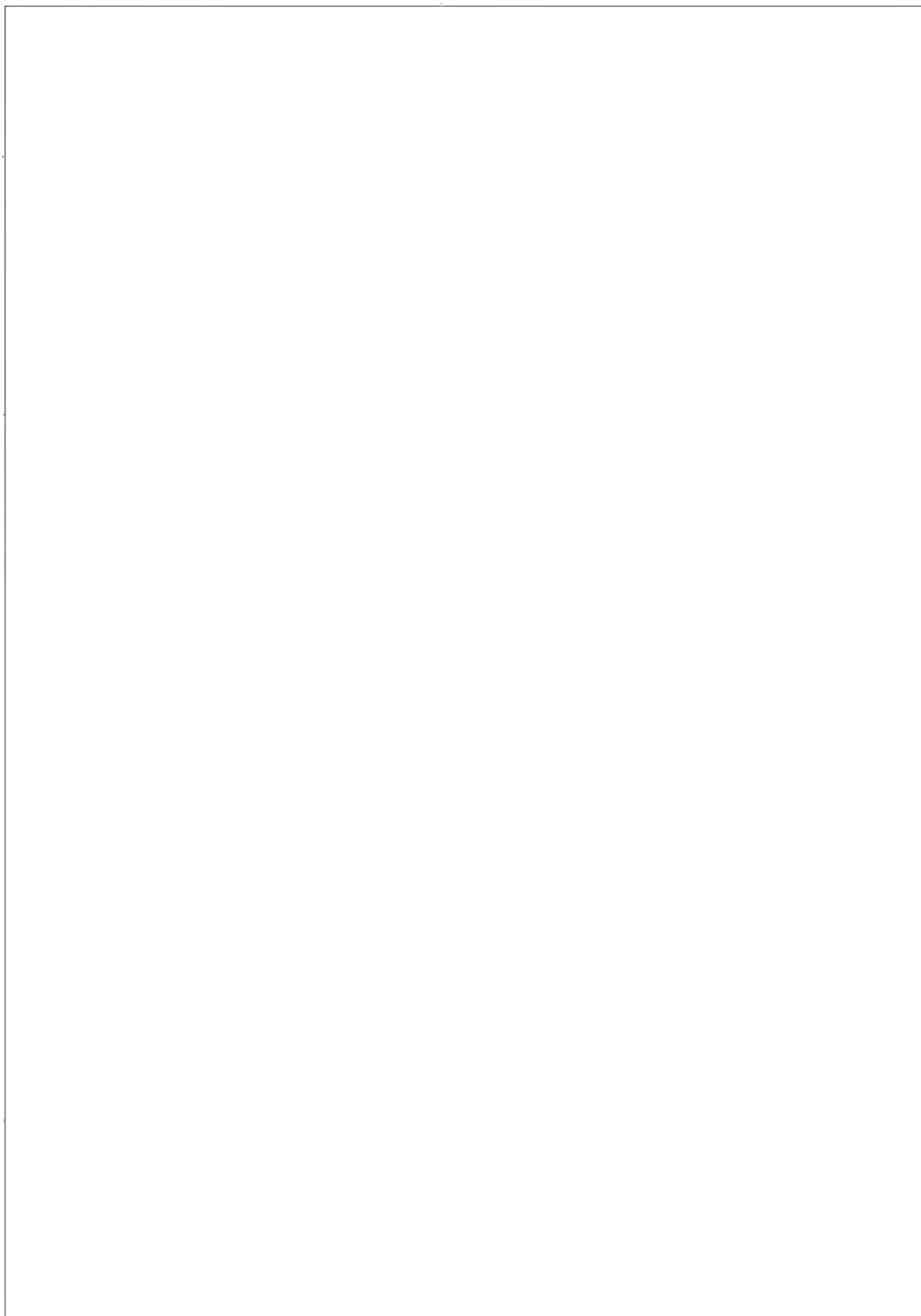


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French Official's Comments on North's Attitudes: Etienne Manac'h, the chief of the Far East Section of the French Foreign Office, has told US Embassy officials of a talk he had with Mai Van Bo, Hanoi's representative in Paris, on 6 October. In discussing President Johnson's speech of 29 September, Manac'h commented that in his view the portion calling for "reciprocity" was more flexible than any previous US statement. Bo's rejoinder was that there was nothing new in the speech and that its effect on North Vietnam was "nil" because the US was still demanding preconditions for a bombing halt. On the basis of his conversation with Bo, Manac'h felt that Hanoi's present position on entering into a dialogue with the US was "very hard."

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Manac'h also informed the embassy that North Vietnamese Party First Secretary Le Duan was currently in Moscow, where he would probably remain until the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

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## II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

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